

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00581 130620Z
ACTION EA-12

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PLEASE PASS DOL FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY SAMUEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, JA
SUBJECT: EXPANDING CONTACTS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
MINISTRY OF LABOR

1. IN JANUARY 11 MEETINGS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE VICE
MINISTER OF LABOR FUJINAWA AND DEPUTY VICE MINISTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS IWATA, ASSOCIATE DEPUTY
UNDERSECRETARY OF LABOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BLACKMAN
RAISED POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN
DOL AND MOL. BLACKMAN NOTED THAT WHILE MOL IS NOT
CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY MATTERS,
ITS OTHER CONCERNS ARE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF
DOL. BLACKMAN PROPOSED GREATER EXCHANGES OF VISITS
BETWEEN MOL AND DOL PERSONNEL AT ALL LEVELS AND SUGGESTED
THAT, AS A START, VICE MINISTER FUJINAWA, WHO HAD NOT
BEEN TO THE US FOR 15 YEARS, PAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON
IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. WITH REGARD TO HIGH-LEVEL TALKS, BLACKMAN NOTED
THAT SINCE SUSPENSION A FEW YEARS AGO OF US-JAPAN
CABINET-LEVEL GATHERINGS, US SECRETARY OF LABOR AND
JAPANESE MINISTER OF LABOR HAD NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY
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FOR EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. IN THIS CONTEXT,
BLACKMAN ASKED WHETHER MOL WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO VISIT
BY SECRETARY MARSHALL SOME TIME IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

3. BOTH FUJINAWA AND IWATA EXPRESSED HOPE THEY COULD
VISIT WASHINGTON THIS YEAR. THEY WELCOMED THE IDEA OF
MARSHALL VISIT TO JAPAN IN PRINCIPLE BUT CAUTIONED THAT

IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY PLANNED AS TO CONTENT AND
TIMING. THEY SAID THAT, UNLIKE US LABOR SECRETARIES,
JAPANESE LABOF MINISTERS ARE GENERALLY NOT SPECIALISTS

IN LABOR MATTERS. THEY ALSO SAID ANY VISIT SHOULD BE
TIMED TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM DRAMATIC EFFECT.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH LABATT, IWATA SAID
THAT MOL WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS WERE INDEED INTERESTED
IN HAVING SECRETARY MARSHALL VISIT JAPAN BUT HOPED THAT
SUCH VISIT WOULD NOT INVOLVE "NEGOTIATIONS" ON TRADE
OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, AS MOL HAS NO
RESPONSIBILITIES IN THESE FIELDS.

MANSFIELD

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